

nectostem of *Apolemia uvaria*. The filiform bodies (*ts*) of *Plæophysa* are thought to be homologous with nectotasters in *Apolemia* and *Pterophysa*.

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EXPLANATION OF PLATE XVII.

- f.* Float.
h. Hood.
m. Connexion of the hood with the polyp-sac.
pt. Polypite (artificially extended; in nature probably even more extended).
pt'. Polypite as it appears in alcoholic specimens.
s. Gonophores. A large cluster of male and female bells.
ta. Tentacle (artificially extended as in nature; in alcohol all the tentacles are retracted to the body of the polypite).
ts. Taster or hydrocyst.

[The figures are drawn from an alcoholic specimen.]

Fig. 1. *Plæophysa Agassizii* (lateral view).

Fig. 2. The same (viewed from above).

XXXIX.—*Contribution to the Knowledge of Snakes of Tropical Africa.* By Dr. A. GÜNTHER, F.R.S., Keeper of the Zoological Department, British Museum.

[Plates XVIII. & XIX.]

I. *Descriptive Notes.*

RHINOCALAMUS, g. n. (Calamariid).

Body elongate, cylindrical, of uniform thickness throughout; head small, not distinct from neck, narrow and tapering; tail rather short, obtuse; eye very small; cleft of mouth narrow, with feeble jaws; scales smooth, in seventeen rows; subcaudals paired. Rostral shield wedge-shaped; two pairs of frontals, the posterior replacing a loreal and antecular; nasal single, but with a groove below the narrow nostril. Maxillary armed with a few comparatively strong teeth, the two hindmost of which are enlarged and grooved.

Rhinocalamus dimidiatus, sp. n. (Pl. XIX. fig. C.)

The scutellation of the head of this singular snake consists

first of a large and broad rostral shield, which in front is compressed into a horizontal edge. Then follow two pairs of frontals, the anterior of which are transversely narrow; the posterior large, in contact with the third labial and forming the front margin of the orbit. Vertical broad, subquadrangular, with an obtuse angle in front and an acute one behind; occipitals rather narrow and elongate, forming a suture with the fifth labial. Upper labials six, of which the first two are small, situated below the nasal; the third and fourth enter the orbit, the fifth is the largest and succeeded by a sixth very small one. The supraciliary is very small and the single postocular minute. One large temporal occupies the hinder part of the temple. The first pair of lower labials form a suture together in the median line, and are succeeded by a single pair of small and narrow chin-shields; the fourth lower labial exceeds the others considerably in extent. Ventral shields 204; anal divided; subcaudals 26.

The upper parts of this snake are uniform black, the lower parts and the three outer series of scales white.

The largest of three specimens is $15\frac{1}{2}$ inches long, the tail measuring $1\frac{1}{2}$ inch.

Three specimens were obtained at Mpwapwa.

The figure of the head is twice the natural size.

Calamelaps miolepis, sp. n.

In the pholidosis of the head this species agrees entirely with *Calamelaps unicolor*, and, like that species, it is of a uniform deep black colour; but the scales are arranged in twenty-one series instead of seventeen. Ventral scutes 205; subcaudals 18; anal bifid.

One specimen, 16 inches long, was obtained at Cape Maclear on Lake Nyassa.

Elapomorphus acanthias, Kröy.

This species is not always ornamented with longitudinal bands. The British Museum possesses two specimens from Old Calabar, one of which has the body uniform black, with yellowish abdomen, and the other nearly so, although in certain lights the bands may be seen. In all the head is of a lighter colour than the trunk, marbled with brown.

Ventral and subcaudal scutes 210 + 18.

Elapomorphus cacutiens, sp. n. (Pl. XIX. fig. B.)

This species is distinguished from its African congeners by

the remarkably small size of the eye, and especially from *Elapomorphus gabonicus* by the elongate first lower labials, which form a suture in the median line behind the mentale. Head short, broad and depressed. Upper labials seven, of which the third and fourth enter the orbit; præocular one; postocular one, rarely two. Temporals 1 + 1, the anterior in contact with the postocular. Scales in fifteen rows. Ventral scutes 231; subcaudals 17 or 18; anal bifid. The orbit is but little larger than the depression of the nasal aperture. Upper and lateral parts uniform dark slate-coloured, lower parts white.

Two specimens from the Cameroon Mountains (altitude 2000 feet), the larger being 20 inches long.

Uriechis capensis, Smith.

This species is distinguished by the very large mentale, which separates widely the two anterior labials from each other. Specimens from Zanzibar agree entirely with Jan's figure, the fifth labial being in contact with the occipital; but a specimen from Nyassa has the body uniform black, the nuchal white and black bands being present as in the typical form. This latter specimen has also a longer tail, with 58 subcaudals (and 151 abdominal scutes). The Zanzibar specimens vary somewhat in these numbers, viz. 133–153 ventral and 41–46 subcaudal scutes.

Uriechis lunulatus, Ptrs.

Although closely allied to *Uriechis capensis*, this species may be readily distinguished by the much smaller and shorter mentale, which allows the lower labials of the first pair to meet each other in the median line, but without forming so long and distinct a suture as in *Uriechis concolor*. The head is rather broad and depressed. The antecular about as deep as long. Seven upper labials, of which the third and fourth enter the orbit; the fifth only forms a suture with the occipital; one postocular. Temporals 1 + 2, the anterior not meeting the postocular. Scales in fifteen rows.

One specimen, 13 inches long, is light olive-coloured, each scale with a brown edge; the neck is ornamented by a broad black cross bar, which at a distance of seven scales is succeeded by a similar but narrower band; a series of about ten black cross bars follow, becoming narrower and shorter behind; lower parts whitish. 154 ventral and 59 subcaudal scutes.—Lake Nyassa.

A second specimen is 15 inches long. The ground-colour

is the same as in the first, but of the black cross bands only the two anterior are indistinctly visible; lower parts uniform whitish. Ventral scutes 155; subcaudals 51.—Lake Tanganyika.

Uriechis concolor, Fischer.

A specimen from Lado, sent by Emin Pasha, agrees perfectly with the description given by Fischer. Besides the black coloration, the length of the suture formed by the first lower labials behind the mentale is characteristic. Ventral scutes 148; subcaudals 54. Fischer's specimen came from the foot of Kilima-ndjaro.

Uriechis Jacksonii, sp. n. (Pl. XIX. fig. E.)

This species also is very closely allied to *Uriechis capensis*. Scales in fifteen rows. Ventral scutes 150; subcaudals 39. Head rather narrow, depressed. Præocular short, two postoculars. Temporals 1+2, the anterior in contact with the postoculars; seven upper labials, of which the third and fourth enter the orbit, and none of which are in contact with the occipitals. Mentale short, the lower labials of the first pair forming a suture together in the median line. Light olive-coloured, the upper part of the head and of the neck and also the labials below the eye black; a pair of white spots behind the occiput. A narrow black line runs along the vertebral series of scales. Lower parts uniform whitish.

A single young specimen, $7\frac{1}{2}$ inches long, was discovered by F. J. Jackson, Esq., at the foot of Kilima-ndjaro.

The figure of the head is twice the natural size.

Grayia triangularis, Hall.

A young specimen from the Congo has the whole of the lower parts uniform black. Another young specimen from the Gaboon differs still more from the type in its coloration, the light cross bands being absent, appearing as irregular whitish longitudinal lines on the side of the body. The upper parts are nearly uniform greyish brown, each scale having a darker centre. Lower parts black.

Ahaetulla Emini, sp. n.

Ventral shields without keels, 151; anal bifid; upper labials nine, the fourth, fifth, and sixth entering the orbit; one anteocular, two postoculars; six of the lower labials are in

contact with the chin-shields; loreal not twice as long as broad; temporal shields 1+2. Scales smooth, in 15 rows. Head of moderate size, not elongate or depressed; body and tail moderately slender. Uniform green; skin between the scales black, each scale with a white spot on the basal half of its outer margin.

One specimen was obtained from Monbuttú by Emin Pasha; it is 29 inches long, the head measuring $\frac{3}{4}$ inch and the tail 10 inches.

Ahatulla shirana, sp. n.

Ventral shields slightly keeled, 157; anal bifid; upper labials nine, the fourth, fifth, and sixth entering the orbit; one anteocular, two postoculars; six of the lower labials are in contact with the chin-shields; loreal not twice as long as deep; temporal shields 1+2+2. Scales smooth, in 15 series. Head of moderate size, not depressed or elongate; body and tail moderately slender. Green; skin between the scales black; each scale with a white spot on the basal half of its outer margin. The back of the anterior half of the trunk is crossed by narrow, closely set, rather irregular, black cross bars, which become narrower behind and disappear altogether in the middle of the length of the trunk.

One specimen was obtained at the Blantyre Mission Station on the Shire River. It is 18 inches long, the head measuring $1\frac{7}{8}$ inch and the tail 6 inches.

Ahatulla Bocagii, sp. n.

Ventral shields keeled, 196; anal bifid; upper labials nine, the fifth and sixth entering the orbit; one anteocular, two postoculars; six of the lower labials are in contact with the chin-shields; loreal elongate, at least twice as long as deep; temporal shields 2+2+2. Scales smooth, in 15 series. Head rather small, not elongate; body and tail very slender. Uniform green; skin between the scales black, each scale with a whitish spot.

One adult specimen was obtained by Lieut. Cameron in Angola; it is 35 inches long, the head measuring $\frac{5}{8}$ inch, and the tail 11 inches.

Ahatulla gracillima, sp. n.

Ventral shields without lateral keels, 180; anal bifid; upper labials nine, the fourth, fifth, and sixth entering the

orbit; one anteorcular, two postoculars; six of the lower labials are in contact with the chin-shields; loreal not twice as long as deep; temporal shields 1+1. Scales smooth, in 15 series. Head remarkably small, not depressed or elongate; body and tail very slender, especially the neck. Uniform green; scales without whitish spot.

One specimen was obtained in a collection from the Lower Congo; it is 27 inches long, the head being $\frac{1}{2}$ inch long, and the tail measuring 10 inches.

Rhagerrhis oxyrhynchus.

The synonymy of this species stands as follows:—

Psammophis oxyrhynchus, Reinh. Dansk. Vid. Selsk. Afh. 1843, p. 244, tab. i. figs. 10–12. (V. sc. 169–178. Coast of Guinea.)

Ramphiophis rostratus, Peters, Berl. MB. 1854, p. 624, and Reise n. Mossamb. Amphib. 1882, p. 124, tab. xix. fig. 1. (V. sc. 160–179. Mossambique.)

Rhagerrhis unguiculata, Günth. Ann. & Mag. Nat. Hist. 1868, i. p. 422, taf. xix. fig. G. (V. sc. 176. Zanzibar.)

Cælopettis oxyrhynchus, Jan, Iconogr. livr. xxxiv. pl. i. fig. 1.

Cælopettis porrectus, Jan, Iconogr. livr. xxxiv. pl. ii. fig. 1.

Rhagerrhis rubropunctatus.

Dipsina rubropunctata, Fischer, Afrik. Reptil. &c., Hamb. 1884, p. 7, taf. i. fig. 3.

Kilima-ndjaro. V. sc. 230.

Psammophis acutus, sp. n. (Pl. XIX. fig. D.)

This species is distinguished by its singularly short and convex head, terminating in a sharply conical snout. The rostral shield has a tetragonal form, the upper side forming a part of the upper surface of the snout. The occipital shields are small, shorter than the vertical; the single præocular touches the vertical; two postoculars; loreal square; eight upper labials, of which the first is very small, the fourth and fifth entering the orbit; temporals 2+3+4. Scales in 17 rows; ventrals 185; anal divided; subcaudals 59 pairs. General shape of the body similar to that of *Psammophis sibilans*. A brown lateral band forms the boundary between the ground-colour of the back and that of the lower parts. The ground-colour of the back is light, with a brownish tinge; a vertebral line of a darker colour occupies only the median series of scales, but is more dilated on the neck and the crown of the head. The lateral band is deep brown, with

a black and white edge, occupying the third and fourth and the two halves of the adjoining series of scales; it commences in the nasal region, passes through the eye, and is continued nearly to the end of the tail. The outermost series of scales and the abdomen are yellowish white.

A single specimen from Pungo Andongo is 36 inches long, the tail measuring $6\frac{1}{2}$ inches.

Simocephalus nyassæ, sp. n.

Scales in 15 rows, all strongly keeled, and the majority with shorter secondary keels; dorsal scales large, bicarinate. Ventral scutes strongly keeled on the sides, 178. One ante- and one postocular; seven upper labials, the third and fourth entering the orbit; temporals 1 + 2 + 3, the anterior separated from the anteo-ocular by the occipital and fifth labial, which are in contact with each other. Snout very broad and much depressed. Uniform brownish black above, lighter beneath.

A single specimen, 17 inches long, from Lake Nyassa. The tail measures 4 inches.

Boodon geometricus, Boie.

This name, which frequently occurs in treatises on African snakes, has been applied to specimens of *Boodon* with 21, generally 23, and sometimes 25 series of scales, and with two yellow lines on each side of the head, of which one may or may not be continued along the side of the body.

From a revision of the specimens in the British Museum and a comparison of the descriptions by various authors I have come to the conclusion that several well-marked species have been confounded under that name, at any rate by myself in the 'Catalogue of Colubrine Snakes;' that neither the specimen in the Paris Museum from Péron's collection, which was described by Duméril and Bibron, nor the one figured by Jan, nor the snake figured by Andrew Smith, are the species named and figured by Boie and Schlegel*. Jan's figure was probably taken from a specimen from the Seychelle Islands, and Smith's snake is, as Boulenger has already stated, in fact, *Boodon lineatus*.

The type of the species is in the Leyden Museum and described by Schlegel. His description does not agree with any of the species distinguished here; possibly it may apply

* Peters and Bocage seem to have assumed that the type named by Boie is in, or at least identical with the specimens of, the Paris Museum (Jorn. Sc. Lisb. xliv. 1887, p. 199).

to my *Boodon mentalis*; but this has 25, and not 21 or 23 scales, as Schlegel says. In short, the true *Boodon geometricus* is unknown to me.

The following table may assist in the discrimination of these species:—

I. Two pairs of chin-shields, the shields of the posterior pair in contact with each other.

A. Scales in 23 rows.

1. One antecular.

a. The antecular reaches to the upper surface of the head; abdomen yellowish along the middle, slate-coloured on the side West Africa (Old Calabar and Ashantee): *B. ventralis*.

b. The antecular does not reach to the upper surface of the head; abdomen uniform dusky brown.
Seychellé Islands: *B. seychellensis*.

2. Two anteculars East Africa (Lake Tanganyika and Mombas): *B. bipræocularis*.

B. Scales in 25 rows; lower parts uniform whitish.

Fernando Po: *B. poensis*.

II. The chin-shields of the posterior pair are separated from each other by the anterior pair, and do not meet in the median line; scales in 25 rows Damara Land: *B. mentalis*.

Boodon ventralis, sp. n. (Pl. XVIII. fig. A.)

Scales in 23 rows. Head moderately depressed; snout not very broad; eye small. One præocular, which may or may not reach the vertical; two postoculars. Loreal longer than deep; eight low upper labials, the fourth and fifth entering the orbit. Temporals 1 + 2 + 3. Two pairs of chin-shields, the posterior pair about two thirds of the anterior. Ventral scutes 205 or 207. Upper parts of a uniform slate-colour, which colour extends on the abdomen, covering on each side about one third of the ventral scutes, the middle third only of the abdomen being of a yellowish-white colour; lower part of the tail light slate-colour. Head with two narrow well-defined yellow lines on each side, the two supra-orbital lines converging on the rostral shield.

This is a West-African species and readily recognized by the coloration of the abdomen. I have seen six specimens, three being from Old Calabar and two from Ashantee. The largest is 32 inches long, the tail measuring 5 inches. One specimen had swallowed a rat.

Boodon seychellensis, sp. n. (Pl. XVIII. fig. C.)

Scales in 23 rows. Head short and depressed; snout broad and truncated; eye small. One præocular, which does not reach to the upper surface of the head; two postoculars. Loreal small, rather longer than deep. Upper labials eight, but the third is sometimes split into two; the fourth and fifth and sometimes the third enter the orbit; all the upper labials are high. Temporals 1 + 2 + 3. Two pairs of chin-shields, the posterior pair about two thirds the size of the anterior. Ventral scutes 195 to 210. Upper parts brownish grey, with a more or less indistinct dark line running along the median line of the back and along the middle of the side of the body. Head with the two bands on each side very distinct and edged with black; the lower is broken up into spots, the upper and lower lips being largely marbled with dark and light brown. An oblique light band runs from the eye to the angle of the mouth. Lower parts brown, each scute with a lighter posterior edge.

I have seen three specimens of this species. They were brought by Dr. Perceval Wright from the Seychelles. The largest is 36 inches long, the tail measuring $5\frac{1}{2}$. It had swallowed a young chicken.

Boodon bipræocularis, sp. n. (Pl. XVIII. fig. B.)

Scales in 23 rows. Head and snout rather broad and depressed; eye small. Two præ- and two postoculars; the upper præocular reaches to or nearly to the vertical. Upper labials low, eight in number, the fourth and fifth entering the orbit. Two pairs of chin-shields, the posterior pair about half the size of the anterior. Loreal not much longer than deep. Ventral scutes 192. Upper parts uniform brown, lower whitish. The old example shows indistinct traces of the light labial band, but the supraocular band has entirely disappeared. In the young specimen both bands are conspicuous, narrow, the upper confluent on the præfrontals.

Of this species I have examined two specimens—one from Lake Tanganyika, 23 inches long, the tail measuring 6 inches; the second specimen is young and comes from Rabai Hills, Mombas.

Boodon poensis, sp. n.

Scales in 25 rows. Head scarcely depressed, of moderate width; eye rather small; one præocular, which extends to

the upper surface of the head, but does not reach the vertical; two postoculars. Loreal not much longer than deep; eight low upper labials, of which the fourth and fifth enter the orbit; temporals rather irregular; two pairs of chin-shields, of which the posterior is only half the size of the anterior. Ventral scutes 214. Upper parts and sides uniform brown, lower parts whitish. Of the lateral lines of the head only the anterior portions of the supraorbital lines are distinct; they converge on the anterior frontals.

I have seen only one specimen of this species; it came from Fernando Po. It is young, 12 inches long, the tail measuring $1\frac{1}{2}$ inch.

Boodon mentalis, sp. n. (Pl. XIX. fig. A.)

Scales in 25 rows. Head much depressed, broad, as is also the snout; eye large. One præocular, which is in contact with the vertical; two narrow postoculars. Loreal longer than deep; eight low upper labials, of which the third, fourth, and fifth enter the orbit. Temporals 1+2+4. Two pairs of chin-shields; the shields of the posterior pair are very narrow and entirely separated from each other by the anterior. Ventral scutes 214. Upper parts light olive-coloured, sides and lower parts white; a very indistinct yellowish band runs along the side of the anterior part of the trunk. Two yellow lines on each side of the head, the supraorbital converging on the rostral shield; the infraorbital is rather irregular, straight, and not oblique, and covers the greater part of the lower labial shields.

I have seen only one specimen of this species; it is young, 13 inches long, the tail measuring 2 inches. It came from Damara Land.

Causus Jacksonii, sp. n.

Scales in 23 rows, only those of the upper series on the hinder part of the body are keeled. The rostral shield is turned upwards, with a slightly swollen upper edge as in *Causus rostratus*, in which, however, the shield is still more prominent. In other respects the scutellation is very much as in the other two species. The anterior frontals are a little longer than the posterior, and the area of the vertical shield considerably surpasses that of the occipital. Nostril between the two nasals and the anterior frontal. Loreal square; orbit surrounded by a ring of small and narrow scutes. Six upper labials; temporals 2+3, the two anterior being the largest. Ventral scutes 146.

The coloration of the adult is uniform greenish olive, the abdomen being whitish. A very young specimen has the back crossed by numerous narrow curved bands, the convexity being directed backwards. The neck and occiput are ornamented by the outlines of the arrow-shaped spot which is observed in the two other species, but which in this species is lost in the adult.

We possess three specimens of this species; one came from Lake Tanganyika and the two others were found by Mr. F. J. Jackson at Lamu on the east coast. The largest is 18 inches long, the tail measuring $1\frac{1}{2}$ inch.

Elapsoidea nigra, sp. n.

Uniform black, lower jaw and anterior ventrals whitish. Scales in 13 rows. Body moderately stout. Ventrals 153; subcaudals in a double series, in 16 pairs; two pairs of frontal shields, one præ- and two postoculars; seven upper labials, of which the third and fourth enter the orbit. Temporals 1+2+2. Anterior chin-shields in contact with four labials.

A single specimen, 16 inches long, the tail measuring $1\frac{1}{4}$ inch, was obtained at Ushambola.

Atractaspis microlepidota, Gthr.

A specimen of this species was obtained on the shores of Lake Tanganyika. It has 35 and 37 series of scales and 245 ventral scutes.

II. *The Snakes of the Lake-districts of Central Africa and their Relation to those of other Districts of Tropical Africa.*

The difficulties attending the carriage in Central Africa of natural-history collections, and especially of specimens preserved in spirits, have proved a great obstacle to the progress of our knowledge of the Central-African fauna. Speke and Grant had to be satisfied with bringing home one small snake and the head of another, and some of their successors were even less fortunate. It is only within the last few years that small collections containing snakes have reached Europe. Especially through the mediation of Sir J. Kirk many specimens collected at mission-stations in the interior have been sent to the British Museum; and finally the German traveller Hr. Bolmdorff, Mr. F. J. Jackson, and Emin Pasha added to the same collection series of specimens, numerically, indeed, not very large, but all of great interest.

The species enumerated in the following list were obtained at Lado, at Monbuttu, and Semmio (district of the headwaters of the Congo), at the great Central-African lakes southwards to Lake Nyassa, at the foot of Kilima-ndjaro, in the Mpwapwa Mountains, and on the highland of Ugogo. In separate columns an asterisk (*) indicates the occurrence of a species in the littoral areas of tropical West and East Africa.

List of the Species of Snakes known to inhabit Districts of Central Africa †.

	West Africa.	Central Lake-districts.	Zanzibar District.	Mozambique District.
1. <i>Typhlops Schlegelii</i> , <i>Bianc.</i>	*	Tanganyika.	*	*
2. <i>Rhinocalamus dimidiatus</i> , <i>Gthr.</i> . . . .	..	Mpwapwa.		
3. <i>Calamelaps molepis</i> , <i>Gthr.</i> . . . .	..	Nyassa.		
4. <i>Uriechis lunulatus</i> , <i>Ptrs.</i> . . . .	..	Lado, Tanganyika, Nyassa.	..	*
5. — <i>concolor</i> , <i>Fisch.</i> . . . .	..	Lado, Kilima-ndjaro.		
6. — <i>Jacksonii</i> , <i>Gthr.</i> . . . .	..	Kilima-ndjaro.		
7. — <i>capensis</i> , <i>Smith</i> . . . .	..	Nyassa.	*	*
8. <i>Ablabes Hildebrandtii</i> , <i>Ptrs.</i> † . . . .	..	Kilima-ndjaro.	Mombaza	
9. <i>Coronella nototænia</i> , <i>Gthr.</i> . . . .	..	Nyassa.	..	*
10. — <i>olivacea</i> , <i>Ptrs.</i>	Gaboon	Lado, Kilima-ndjaro.	..	*
11. — <i>semiornata</i> , <i>Ptrs.</i> . . . .	..	Tanganyika.	*	*
12. — <i>inornata</i> , <i>Fisch.</i> . . . .	..	Kilima-ndjaro.		
13. <i>Neusterophis atratus</i> , <i>Ptrs.</i>	*	Monbuttu.		
14. <i>Gravia Diardi</i> , <i>Dollo</i> § . . . .	..	Tanganyika.		
15. <i>Scaphiophis albopunctatus</i> , <i>Ptrs.</i>	*	Semmio.		

† A few species which I have not seen and about the determination of which I entertain doubts are omitted from this list. The principal contributions to our knowledge of this part of the Central-African fauna are the two following:—

1884. FISCHER, J. G. "Ueber die von Hrn. Dr. G. A. Fischer im Massai-Gebiete . . . gesammelten Reptilien, Amphibien, und Fische." *JB. Hamb. wiss. Anst.* i. pp. 3-32, pls. i. & ii.

1886. DOLLO, L. "Note sur les Reptiles et Batraciens recueillis par M. le Capitaine Storms dans la région du Tanganyika." *Bull. Mus. Belg.* iv. p. 151.

‡ This snake shows such a remarkable agreement in many points with the following that a direct comparison of the typical specimens would be very desirable.

§ Not seen by myself.

	West Africa.	Central Lake-districts.	Zanzibar District.	Mozambique District.
16. <i>Bothrophthalmus melanozostus</i> , Schl.	*	Semmio.		
17. <i>Psammophis sibilans</i> , L.	*	Lado, Monbuttu, Kilima-ndjaro, Nyassa.	*	*
18. — <i>biseriatus</i> , Ptrs. ....	..	Kilima-ndjaro.	*	
19. <i>Rhagerhis oxyrhynchus</i> , Rhrdt. ....	..	Mpwapwa, Tanganyika.	*	*
20. — <i>rubropunctatus</i> , Fisch. ...	..	Kilima-ndjaro.		
21. <i>Amphiophis angolensis</i> , Boc. ...	*	Nyassa.		
22. <i>Dasypeltis scabra</i> , L.	*	Monbuttu, Kilima-ndjaro.	*	*
23. — <i>palmarum</i> , Leach.	*	Kilima-ndjaro.		
24. <i>Bucephalus capensis</i> , Smith ...	*	Nyanza, Mpwapwa, Tanganyika.	*	*
25. <i>Ahætulla Kirkii</i> , Gthr. ....	..	Tanganyika.	*	
26. — <i>punctata</i> , Ptrs. ....	..	Kilima-ndjaro.	*	*
27. — <i>Emini</i> , Gthr. ....	..	Monbuttu.		
28. <i>Dryophis Kirtlandii</i> , Hallow. ...	*	Kilima-ndjaro, Mpwapwa.		
29. <i>Chamaetortus aulicus</i> , Gthr. ...	..	Tanganyika.	..	*
30. <i>Leptodira rufescens</i> , Gm.	*	Kilima-ndjaro.	..	*
31. — <i>semiannulata</i> , Gthr.	Loanda	Tanganyika.	*	
32. <i>Simocephalus nyassæ</i> , Gthr. ...	..	Nyassa.		
33. <i>Lycophidium Horstockii</i> , Schl. ...	*	Kilima-ndjaro.		
34. <i>Boodon lineatus</i> , D. B.	*	Mpwapwa, Kilima-ndjaro.	*	*
35. — <i>unicolor</i> , Boie.	*	Semmio.		
36. — <i>bipræocularis</i> , Gthr. ....	..	Tanganyika.	Rabai	
37. <i>Python sebæ</i> , Gm.	*	Upper Nile.	*	*
38. <i>Naja nigricollis</i> , Rhrdt.	*	Kilima-ndjaro.	..	*
39. <i>Boulengerina Stormsi</i> , Dollo ...	..	Tanganyika.		
40. <i>Causus rostratus</i> , Gthr. ....	..	Ugogo.	Rabai	
41. — <i>Jacksonii</i> , Gthr. ....	..	Tanganyika.	Lamu	
42. <i>Dendraspis intermedius</i> , Gthr. ...	..	Kilima-ndjaro, Nyanza, Tanganyika.	..	*
43. <i>Atractaspis Bibronii</i> , Smith. ...	*	Monbuttu.		
44. — <i>aterrima</i> , Gthr.	Lagos	Monbuttu.		
45. — <i>microlepidota</i> , Gthr.	*	Tanganyika.		
46. <i>Clotho arietans</i> , Merr.	*	Kilima-ndjaro, Tanganyika.	*	*

An analysis of this list shows that out of forty-six species known from these central parts eleven are generally spread over Tropical Africa, viz. *Typhlops Schlegelii*, *Coronella olivacea*, *Psammophis sibilans*, *Dasypeltis scabra*, *Bucephalus capensis*, *Leptodira rufescens*, *Leptodira semiannulata*, *Boodon lineatus*, *Python sebæ*, *Naja nigricollis*, and *Clotho arietans*.

Of the remaining thirty-five species only eleven have not been found in the littoral areas of either West or East Africa,

and must be considered at present to be peculiar to Central Africa.

Leaving out of consideration the species common to tropical Africa generally, we know :—

1. From Lado and Lake Nyanza three species, two of which are also found in the East-African littoral.

2. From Monbuttu and Semmio seven species, of which not less than six are West-African; therefore this portion of the fauna of the upper waters of the Congo is probably continuous along the course of this river to the west coast.

3. From Kilima-ndjaro eleven species, of which three occur also on the west and four on the east coast.

4. From Mpwapwa and Ugogo four species, of which one is known also from the west and two from the east coast.

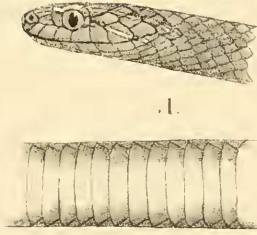
5. From the shores of Lake Tanganyika eleven species, of which one only has been found also on the west coast, whilst eight occur in the eastern littoral. However, it should be remembered that probably most of these species were collected on or near the eastern shores of the lake.

6. From Lake Nyassa six species, of which one only is West- and three others East-African.

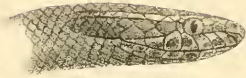
XL.—*Description of Scolopendra valida*, Lucas, with Notes on allied Species. By R. I. POCOCK, Assistant, Natural-History Museum.

THIS species of *Scolopendra* appears to be but little known, and its history up to the present time may be told in a very few words.

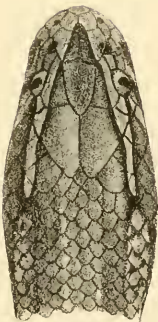
Between 1836 and 1844 it was first described by Lucas from the Canary Islands. In 1844 one of the specimens from which Lucas drew up his description was presented to the British Museum by M. Barker Webb, and was recharacterized by Newport in the Trans. Linn. Soc. for the following year. Since then no new account of the species has been printed. In 1881 Dr. Kohlrausch, trusting to the descriptions given by Newport and Lucas and to the figure published by the latter author, was led to believe that the nearest ally to this form must be *Sc. morsitans* of Linnæus. But even a superficial examination of a specimen shows that it may at once be distinguished from the above-mentioned species by the possession of certain characters which exist conjunctly only, I believe, in some few neotropical forms.



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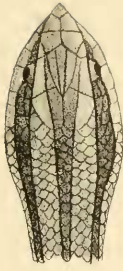


B.



C.





D.



E. 2.



B.



C.



A.

